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18 March 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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*Indonesia: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The army appears to be moving to complete the assumption of power it began last weekend.

Radio Djakarta this morning announced that 15 leftist cabinet ministers, including the army's principal target, Foreign Minister Subandrio, had been placed under "protective custody." The announcement, issued by General Suharto on "behalf" of President Sukarno, stated that the ministers had been "made secure" in order to protect them from the wrath of the "Indonesian people who are becoming restless and uncontrollable."

Shortly before this announcement, an order was broadcast placing all information media under army control, and listeners were instructed to tune in for subsequent important announcements.

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The army's moves this morning came in the wake of continuing resistance from Sukarno, who, almost immediately after his delegation of authority to Suharto, began maneuvering to regain the initiative. [General Suharto had by yesterday come under strong pressure from various army and civilian elements to substitute direct action for the army's original plan to generate popular demands for reforms in the hope that Sukarno would accede to them.]

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Ghana: Nkrumah apparently is trying to gather about him in Guinea, Ghanaian elements who could be useful in spearheading a comeback attempt.

Despite this Soviet effort to appear responsive to Nkrumah's plight, the Soviet Union has tried to maintain correct diplomatic relations with the new Ghanaian regime. Accra announced yesterday that the Soviet Union had extended recognition to the regime.

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Uganda: The situation remains unstable in the wake of Prime Minister Obote's seizure of supreme power three weeks ago.

Obote's actions, including the suspension of the constitution and the displacement of the president and vice president, appear to have alienated most tribal and political elements. He has not yet succeeded in broadening his base of power in the vital south beyond the army and police.

Although the army continues to follow orders of Obote and its commander, Colonel Amin, it is divided between northerners who support Obote and those who resent the ouster of former army chief Opoloto and sympathize with southern moderates.

The US Embassy in Kampala reports a consensus of informed opinion that Obote cannot hold power on his present basis "for more than a matter of weeks or months." His actions are being contested in the courts, [REDACTED]

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USSR: Pressures are being brought to bear on the Soviet leadership by elements in the USSR and Eastern Europe who are anxious to check a reactionary trend in the intellectual sphere.

The effort has apparently been launched now in the hope that the regime can be dissuaded from adopting a line at the forthcoming Party Congress which would reinforce the hard tendency. Soviet intellectuals are concerned by the Stalinist overtones of the recent trial of the writers Sinyavsky and Daniel--the first of its kind since Stalin's death. This concern has been heightened by recurrent rumors and by articles appearing in the Soviet press which suggest that a re-evaluation of the Stalin period is being considered.

Some 40 to 50 Soviet writers reportedly have sent the Soviet leaders a signed petition protesting the handling of the Sinyavsky and Daniel cases. [redacted] a petition signed by 25 leading Soviet intellectuals was sent to Party Secretary Brezhnev warning against any effort to whitewash Stalin's image at the Party Congress, which is due to open on 29 March.

Word that the Russians are considering a new line on Stalin has reached foreign Communist parties. [redacted]

[redacted] an attempt will be made at the Party Congress to gloss over Stalin's crimes and errors, but his accomplishments will now be given mention as well. Rather than a "rehabilitation" in the usual Soviet sense, [redacted] an attempt to present a more "balanced picture" of the Stalinist period.]

Reactions so far in Eastern Europe indicate that Russian efforts to rehabilitate Stalin, even partially, are creating apprehension and concern in several countries. In addition, [some] party leaders have no wish to see the issue revived. The effect of any such move by

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the Soviet leaders would thus be likely to do further damage to Soviet prestige and to the "unity" of the Soviet bloc and international Communist movement.

The East European attitude is reflected in the strong public criticism of the Soviet writers' trial, particularly by Polish, Czech, and Hungarian intellectuals. [A delegation of the Czechoslovak Writers' Union, with the approval of the Czech party, is preparing to present a formal protest in Moscow.]

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Colombia: Failure by the ruling National Front to obtain a two-thirds majority in the congressional election on 20 March may force a change in Colombia's system of government.

The National Front system requires government by coalition until 1974. By constitutional arrangement, the Conservative and Liberal parties share equally all government posts, including seats in Congress. The presidency alternates between them at four-year intervals.

An election is therefore not a contest between the two parties, but among factions within them. In essence, it pits those who favor the National Front and its presidential candidate against those who, for varying reasons, are opposed.

Under current alignments the Official Liberals and the Ospinista faction of the Conservative Party represent the National Front. The opposition is composed of the National Popular Alliance of former dictator Rojas Pinilla (nominally Conservative), the Communist-supported Liberal Revolutionary Movement, and the so-called Lauro-Alzatista Conservatives. The Lauro-Alzatistas may rejoin the National Front following the election.

All seats in both houses of Congress are at stake in Sunday's election. Carlos Lleras Restrepo, a Liberal, is the National Front's candidate and the likely winner in a separate presidential election on 1 May. If the opposition wins a majority in Congress, as is expected, or even a third of the seats, Lleras will face serious difficulty in governing. Most important legislation requires a two-thirds vote of Congress for passage. Lleras might find it necessary to govern by decree pending development of a more workable government system.

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The Colombian military are traditionally aloof from politics, but if they saw a threat to themselves or to the country through expansion of the influence of the National Popular Alliance and the Liberal Revolutionary Movement they might feel impelled to intervene.

Security forces are on alert to ensure that the 20 March elections are conducted peacefully. Fraud is not expected to be a significant factor.

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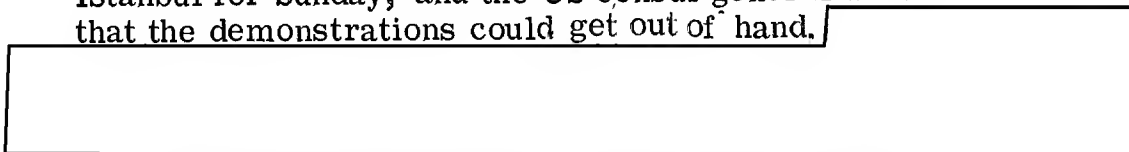
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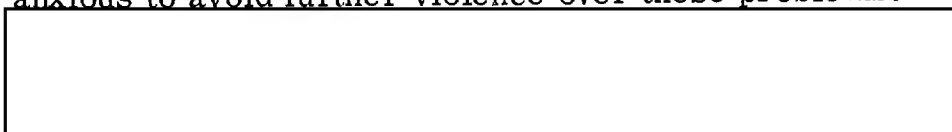
Turkey: A new anti-Communist campaign by the Turkish Government could result in serious violence between rightist and leftist groups. In the past ten days some 16 persons have been arrested for Communist activities and a purge of known and suspected Communists in the civil service and universities is being planned. Over 60 rightist organizations have scheduled an anti-Communist rally in Istanbul for Sunday, and the US consul general warns that the demonstrations could get out of hand.

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Chile: The nationwide work stoppage and the miners' march on Santiago called for by the Chilean workers' confederation earlier this week failed to attract wide support. The government and the Communist-Socialist Popular Action Front can be expected to keep up their political polemic over the clash between labor's demands and the requirements of the country's economic programs. Both the government and responsible labor leaders, however, appear anxious to avoid further violence over these problems.

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